



TROJAN TODAY

YOUR SCHOOL TOWN OF HIGHLAND SOURCE FOR NEWS AND EVENTS | MAY 2020

2019-nCoV
coronavirus

SCHOOL TOWN OF HIGHLAND SPECIAL REPORT



“My daughter is a Highland High School senior and I feel for every one of our students who are missing out on their academic programs, athletic teams, and every other end-of-the-year event.”

Monitoring crisis and adapting guidelines

The May 1 news from the governor’s office has all Indiana school children back in the classroom in August with a caveat – that the state does not experience an inundating second wave of COVID-19 between now and then.

We need to continue to exercise safe social distancing, lots of hand washing and a smart return to life outside our homes. This is key to keeping us all safe as we look forward to reimagining a return to routine for students, parents and teachers.

A big shout-out to every parent who has become an at-home educator. For many, this additional responsibility has come at the same time they are juggling work responsibilities.

I want to also thank our teachers who are finding new and creative ways to link their students together while we are all apart.

While we monitor state directives with e-learning, we have known from the start that returning our children to the classroom is a priority. We know from experience that children learn best in



THANK YOU, VOLUNTEERS! A huge thank you to all the volunteers that have kept the free student meal program moving during the Covid-19 crisis. A special shout out to Barbie Beanblossom, Aline Berdine, Christina Davis, Julie Glenn, Rodney Glenn, Ryan Harrington, School Resource Officer Rick Hoffman, Jaime Houchin, Rachel Jennings, Alex Leach, Kris Pilewski, Linda Potesta, Deanna Shapiro, Drew Timm and Kristen Verhoeve. And, of course, thank you to our food service staff that assist every week! See page 4 for the latest update on the program.

school. We teach problem-solving and grammar, but our kids get so much more. They get social and emotional lessons just by being in that familiar place and interacting with their peers.

Our seniors have told us they want the opportunity to get together face-to-face one last time before heading off to college and jobs.

We have pushed off some dates in hopes of making a true senior get-together a reality. Details – as well as plans for the upcoming school year – will be shared as they become available.

Stay tuned for updates as we continue to navigate this crisis.

Brian Smith
Superintendent
School Town of Highland

SCHOOL CALENDAR UPDATE

Educators continue to teach remotely during the pandemic as schools remain closed through the end of the academic year. ... Spring sports have been canceled. ... Summer school programs will most likely be taught online. ... Fall options range from continued virtual learning to a complete return to normal. It's likely to be a hybrid of the two, combining in-school education with online classes. What Highland does depends on the directives of the governor as well as state health and education officials. Stay tuned!

SCHOOL COUNSELORS

Is distance learning causing issues? Perhaps organization or difficulties dealing with a lack of classroom interaction is creating a funk your child just can't shake. Counselors are accessible to all parents and students. They can be reached via email:

Warren Elementary Counselor
Kris Pilewski
kpilewsk@highland.k12.in.us

Southridge Elementary Counselor
Deanna Shapiro
dshapiro@highland.k12.in.us

Merkley Elementary Counselor
Kristen Verhoeve
kverhoev@highland.k12.in.us

Johnston Elementary Counselor
Rachel Jennings
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Middle School Counselor
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Middle School Counselor
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High School Counselors
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Rose Vis
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WE ARE HERE TO HELP



FREE MEALS THROUGH MAY 18

In just six weeks, Food Services Director Lisa Hayes, her staff and a small army of volunteers have prepared and distributed 45,000 meals to Highland school children.

Hayes is awestruck by the selflessness and sense of community that has emerged.

"It has always been there, especially in the Highland community. In food service, as lunch ladies feeding our kiddos, we experience it every day. But the level has really amped up," Hayes said. "People have donated both food and money. Above all, we have received lots of gratitude and car loads of love – even if it is curbside and 6 feet away!

"It has been our true pleasure to serve them," she said. "Our students are healing us as we work to provide nutrition to keep them well."

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Because of the Covid-19 crisis, kindergarten Round-Up will be done in two phases:

Phase 1: Parents must register students on the RDS parent access page. The earlier this step is done, the more likely your child is able to attend their neighborhood school.

Phase 2: Once buildings are open, parents will be notified and given a window of opportunity to complete the registration process. Completion includes visiting your neighborhood elementary school with documentation to support residency.

When both of these phases are complete, your child will be placed on a roster.

QUESTIONS? Please contact your neighborhood elementary principal or secretary.